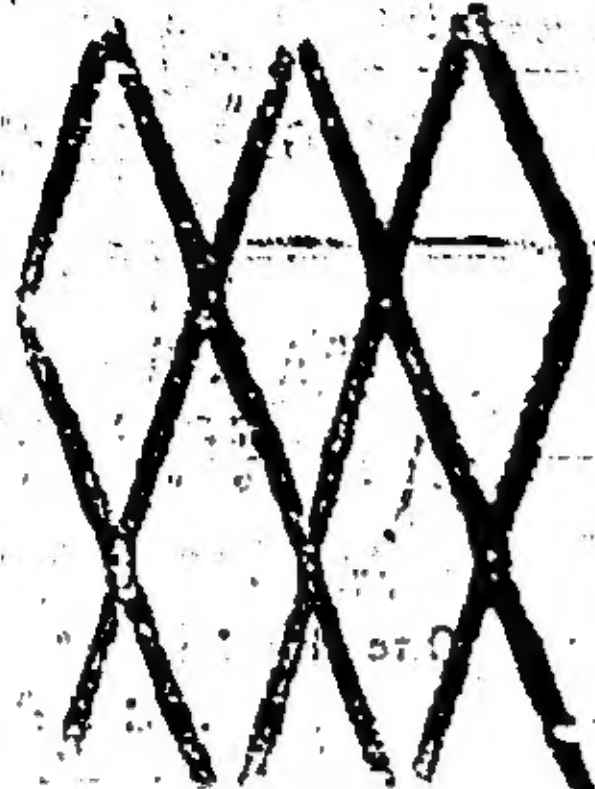


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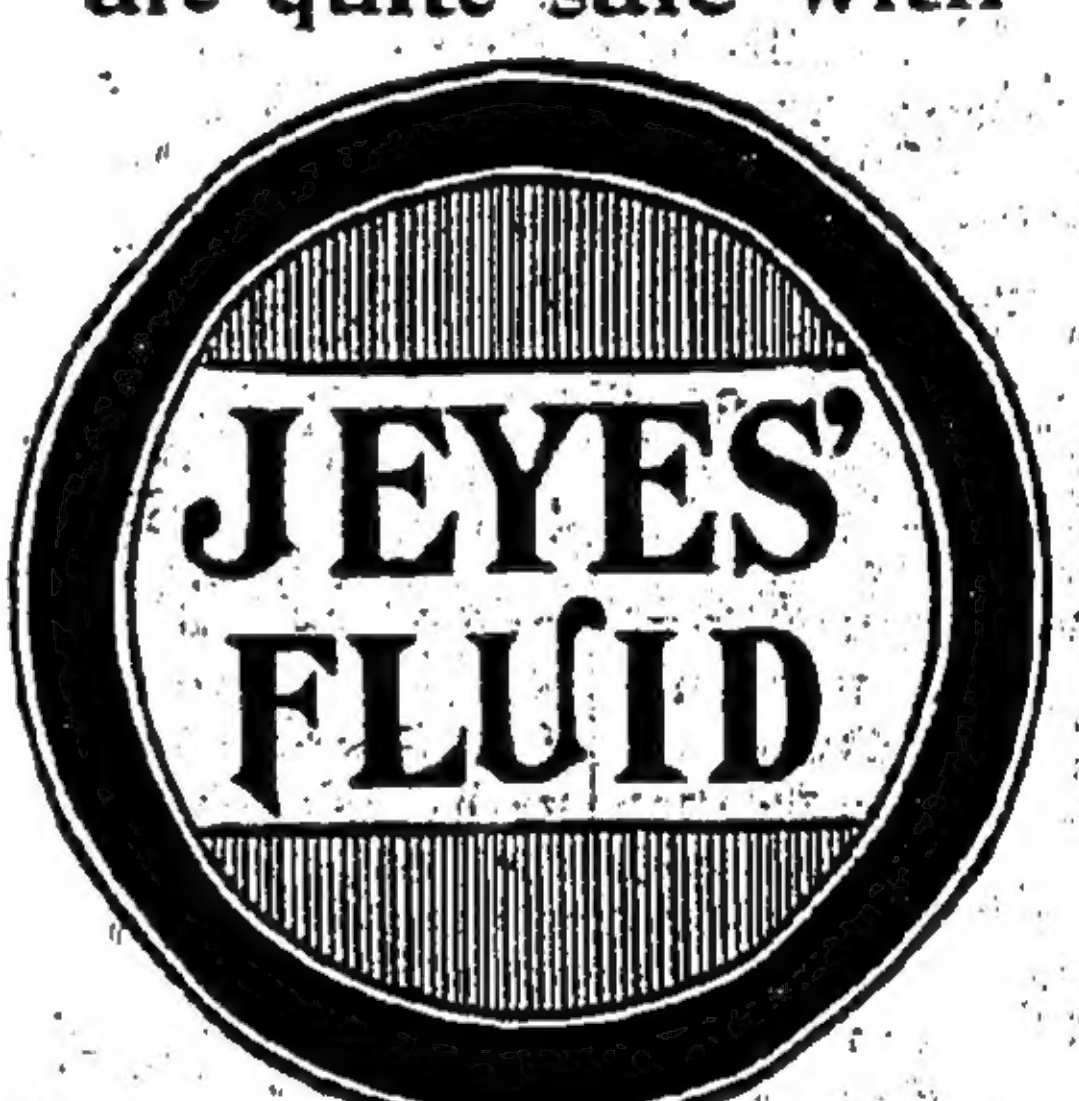
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COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Is Steel Supply Scarce, or Not?—Pittsburgh, March 1.—With the first day of March reached the steel trade felt that there has been no increase in the demand for steel, while March is traditionally a month of heavy output, through weather conditions being exceptionally favorable. During the past week the opinion has gained ground that the next few weeks may see such an increase in steel shipments as will cause steel to appear plentiful, rather than scarce. The probability of increased shipments of steel is such clearer than prospects of increased consumption. There is even news that in certain Washington quarters the apprehension as to prospects of steel supply has changed. One or two prominent representatives of the Government are understood to have become convinced that there will be a sufficient supply of steel. This change, in view, it is understood, came about through steel makers presenting arguments calculated to induce Washington to abandon efforts to restrict artificially the consumption of steel. The steel makers insist that it is not necessary to restrict consumption of steel. Their argument is that the "essential" industries, if there are any, have of their own accord restricted their consumption, and have done it all to well. The steel market is not without demand, but it is a case of executives feeling the rule, the general position being that of a very light commercial demand. The sheet mills, for instance, are operating only about 40 per cent. of capacity, and yet consumers do not appear to be incommoded by the light deliveries.

The Peking Electric Light Company.

In reply to the complaint lodged by a number of residents in the Capital against the Peking Electric Light Company for its inefficient management, the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce has issued an order admitting the justification of the complaints lodged against the Company and enjoining the latter to use its best efforts to remove as far as possible the inconveniences which have been suffered by its customers and at the same time to introduce necessary improvements in its administration. It is understood that on receipt of the petition lodged by the Peking merchants against the Company, the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce referred the case to the Ministry of Communications for the latter's consideration. In reply the Ministry of Communications informs the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce that according to its opinion the complaints made against the Company by the Peking residents have been substantiated. In addition to the order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, the Ministry of Communications has warned the Company against the unsatisfactory manner in which the Company has conducted its business. Regarding the unsatisfactory management of affairs by the Peking Electric Light Company, the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce in its order says that the way in which the Company has done its business tends not only to impede the progress of municipal improvement in the Capital, but also to be detrimental to the interests of the Company itself. The exorbitant charges which the Company has imposed upon the residents for the use of electric light are regarded by the Ministry as unjustifiable. The petition submitted by the residents together with a number of recommendations for the improvement of the management of the Company have been referred to the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce by the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, which further orders the Chamber to exhort the Company to introduce the improvements urged by the petitioners into its management within a stated period. The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce has also been instructed by the Ministry to watch and inspect the results of such improvements as will be made by the Company, and to report the same to the Ministry for further consideration.

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Business correspondence should be sent to the Manager.

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By Order,

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1918.

CHINA'S CONSTITUTIONALISTS.

Notwithstanding the fact that the vast majority of the Chinese—North, South, East and West—have long since accepted the regime that is known as the Central Government and which from Peking acts on behalf of China as a whole, the Canton Constitutionalists still continue to protest that the Peking authorities are usurpers of the worst possible type, men who are actuated by selfish motives and who have no right whatever to call themselves Republicans. China's genuine Republicans, according to the Constitutionalists, are those who have placed themselves under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, who, it appears, still struts about in all the glory of his Generalissimo's uniform—for, of course, a Military Government such as the Constitutionalists claim to have established in Canton, must have a Generalissimo and, even though the said Generalissimo is not a professional soldier and knows nothing about military affairs, he must have a uniform to strut about in!

It is because Foreigners are quite clear on the point that Dr. Sun Yat Sen is not the man to head a national movement and certainly not to act the part of Generalissimo that they refrain from sympathizing with the ardent spirits who, having been ejected from Peking, have been consoling themselves and talking "resolution" in Canton for some time. There was a time when Dr. Sun Yat Sen might very easily have won the confidence of Chinese and Foreigners alike. He was unquestionably one of the most formidable opponents of the Manchu Dynasty and one of those who did much towards bringing about its collapse. But can it be said that the ideas he expressed and the "reforms" he publicly stated that he was eager to carry out were of such a nature as to inspire confidence in him as a leader of a young Republic? They soon led him into dangerous by-ways and ultimately into exile, where he remained until after the demise of Yuan Shih Kai and the establishment of the present regime, first under General Li Yuan Heng and since then with even more steadfastness—for it must be remembered that General Li is a soldier and not a Statesman—by his successors. Dr. Sun at the head of any movement is quite enough to condemn it, in the opinion of all who understand the true needs of China and who realize that it is in the acceptance of a Central Government established at Peking that her true welfare lies.

It is evident that the present administration, like those that have exercised power since the death of Yuan Shih Kai, have no intention of abandoning the Republican form of government with which China has been identified during the past seven years. They, however, very wisely recognise that reforms in China—Parliamentary and otherwise—must be of slow growth and not of a character such as the Constitutionalists of Canton seek to foist upon the country, which politically is still in an infantile stage. The Canton Constitutionalists, among whom—such as Dr. Wu Ting Fang and Mr. Tang Shan Li—there are doubtless many very able men—would, in our opinion, be much better employed in endeavouring to assist the Central Government to grapple with the many big problems that lie to hand, than in fomenting trouble in Canton and elsewhere. They do not seem to realise that more than anything else at the present time China requires internal peace. Constitutional government will come in time, and meantime the Central Government, if left a free hand, is quite capable of testing China's young Republic into paths that will ultimately benefit the people as a whole.

America to the Fore.

Once again yesterday the telegrams contained items of news showing that America is doing her very utmost to help in winning the war. One message stated that the United States has now over one hundred and fifty warships, exclusive of submarine-chasers, operating in European waters. That will probably come as a revelation to a great many people, for very little has hitherto been heard of America's naval co-operation save in regard to the taking of measures to deal with the U-boats. It is now evident, however, that the U.S. Navy is playing a far bigger part than was generally believed. Another most gratifying item of news is that the transportation of American troops to the seat of war has already been accelerated, a fact which indicates very considerable speeding-up, seeing that it is only just three weeks since the Buns launched their big offensive. It is inevitable, of course, that for the present much that the United States is doing should remain hidden from public knowledge, but facts such as we have quoted are sufficient to prove that America is not wearying in well-doing. She is firmly attached to the great cause for which the Allies are fighting, and we may safely count on her doing all that she has promised, if, indeed, not very much more.

An Interesting Admission.

It would seem from a statement issued by the French Premier that the Austrian Emperor, like his lord and master Wilhelm, is rather given to making admissions which unfortunately come home to roost. M. Clemenceau says that in a letter written in March, 1917, the Austrian monarch conceded the justice of the French claims regarding Alsace-Lorraine. That, of course, was a very proper stand to take, but since the All Highest has come down plump on the other side and Austria's own Foreign Minister has said ditto to his Germanic Majesty, it looks as though the Emperor Karl will have to eat his own words. Austria, of course, looks at this question of Alsace-Lorraine from a rather less interested standpoint than Germany, who stole the Provinces from their rightful owner, France, and the admission mentioned is certainly one of which the Allies are entitled to make the most. Unhappily for himself, however, the Emperor Karl is not supposed to have a mind of his own; he is required to surrender his reasoning faculties to the great Wilhelm. Still, we are thankful to him for his concession, even though he is now forced to swallow what he has said.

President Wilson's Noble Utterance.

If any doubt existed regarding the United States' determination to do her utmost to defeat the common enemy it should now be completely dispelled by the stirring speech just delivered by President Wilson at Baltimore, on the occasion of the first anniversary of America's entry into the war and as a send-off in connection with America's Third Liberty Loan. It is a noble utterance animated from beginning to end by the spirit of Democracy and of the belief that free men hold regarding the rights and liberties due to them in the twentieth century. There will be no disputing the President's criticism of Germany's aims. He obtains them from the best source, namely, from the statements of her own spokesmen, and he is under no delusion as to who are the real rulers of Germany. To his offer regarding peace negotiations came the answer of the German military commanders in Russia. It was unmistakable, and so far as Germany was concerned it sounded the death knell of any weak nation with whom Germany had to deal. On behalf of Americans, President Wilson accepted the challenge which it implied and, in noble and eloquent language, called upon his countrymen to see to it that everything was done forthrightly to accomplish the true purpose of the war, namely, to fill the might of our concerted power shall fill the thought and utterly defeat the force of those who would mislead and what we believe and hold dear.

DAY-BY-DAY.

THE NOBLEST WORD IN THE CATALOGUE OF SOCIAL VIRTUES IS "LOYALTY."—Ruskin.

To-morrow's Anniversary.

To-morrow is the anniversary of the battle of Magdala, which took place in 1868.

The Dollar.

The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 3s 0 1/2d.

Spotted Fever.

There were ten cases of cerebro-spinal fever notified yesterday, eight of these being from the city of Victoria and two from other districts. The total number of deaths was six. All the sufferers were Chinese.

Royal Hongkong Yacht Club.

The races for the Commodore's Cup (Racing Yacht and Canoe) will be sailed on the 27th instant. The races for the Niobe and the Irene Cups, were to be sailed for on the 14th instant, will be sailed for on the 28th instant.

St. George's Day Production.

All the elaborate scenery which was used in the recent Shanghai production of "The Witness for the Defence" arrived to-day. There are two very beautiful sets, which have been secured for the St. George's Day production on most liberal terms, thanks to the generosity of the Shanghai Amateur Dramatic Club.

"May Yohe" in Hongkong.

That great favourite of the music-hall, the versatile "May Yohe," is at present passing through the Colony, and has consented to sing at the Victoria Theatre to-morrow night. In private life May Yohe is Mrs. John Smith, sister-in-law of the distinguished General Jan Smuts. She and her husband are now on their way to the front.

Stolen Cigarettes.

A Chinese who, while he went into a shop, left three tins of Capstan cigarettes in his ricksha, was both surprised and annoyed when, on returning, he discovered that both the cigarettes and the ricksha were missing. I inquired where the ricksha was charged before Mr. A. Dyer Bell at the Police Court this morning and fined \$25, or in default five days' hard labour in goal.

Trespass in Servants Quarters.

Before Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe at the Police Court this morning four Chinese were charged with trespass. Mrs. Higgins, who appeared on behalf of the Italian Convent, said defendants were found in the servants' quarters of St. Mary's School, Kwai-Loon, without permission. All the defendants pleaded guilty, and were each fined \$4, in default five days' hard labour.

Obviously.

Charged with stealing a hammer from the Tai Kok Do-kyard, a Chinese before Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe at the Police Court, this morning, pleaded guilty to the theft, and when asked by His Worship why he had hidden it in his sleeve, replied that if he had been carrying it in his hand he would not have been able to get outside the gates with it. He was sent to prison for 14 days' hard labour.

Forthcoming Show.

Readers are reminded that the entries for the forthcoming Dog, Cat, Poultry and Pigeon Show close on Saturday next, the 13th inst. Mr. Glegg, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, informs that entries are coming in rapidly, but the Poultry exhibitors appear to be holding back. There are no entry fees for poultry or pigeons and the charge for dogs or cats is \$2 per exhibitor. A special Cig has been presented to be given to the exhibitor of the largest number of poultry.

Echo of Yau-mat Murder.

At the Police Court this morning Ng Ling, the Chinese, who will be remembered as having been discharged at the Supreme Court on a charge of murdering Inspector O'Sullivan and Sergeant Clarke, appeared before Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe on a charge of conspiracy in the murder of a war time, and of the larger, Chinese killed at Yau-mat on a wholesale transfer, only imperfectly apprehended by the public eye, that Wednesday night should be a solemn and grand occasion for the holding of the case. His Worship agreed.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S TASK.

(Reprinted from the New York "Sun.")

Five years ago last September the American who was soon to become President of the United States pointed out to the workmen of New York what he then regarded as the prime danger to our existing institutions and national system. He spoke not as an executive but as a historian, a philosophical statesman, a lifelong student with recent practical experience of the cardinal questions of government. So said Mr. Wilson's genius, so quickly and sympathetically responsive to his alert mind to the immediate occasion or situation, that it is not difficult to find contradictions of almost startling contrast in his recorded utterances. The same thing is true of Thomas Jefferson, whose facility of expression was so great and whose output of political thought during a long career so voluminous that it is notoriously easy to quote him in support of almost any side of almost any controverted subject. But in this case Mr. Wilson's proposition was fundamental, the personal declaration of a sort not likely to admit of reversal or material qualification under changed conditions. This is what Mr. Wilson said on Labor Day of 1913: "When we resist, therefore, when I, as a Democrat, resist, the concentration of power, I am resisting the processes of death, because concentration of power is what always precedes the destruction of human initiative and therefore of human energy."

Concentration a death process; centralization of power to be resisted by Democracy and by Mr. Wilson if destruction is not to come! Against this quite recently expressed theory of his as to the fatal consequences of concentration of power it is instructive to set, in form as brief as may be, the exhibit of the concentration actually accomplished or undertaken by President Wilson; on his own intrepid initiative, according to one view of the "amazing aggrandizement" of functions, or, according to another possible view, under pressure of mighty events and inevitable requirements since the nation entered the war.

It is proper to remember that the broad back of Atlas was already loaded with Ossa when the process of superimposing Pelion after Pelion began. The powers and duties of the President as Commander in Chief were the same under the Constitution as those which other Presidents have possessed and performed in preceding wars; Madison in our second war with England, Polk in the Mexican war, Lincoln during the great struggle for the preservation of the Union, McKinley in the war with Spain. To whatever extent the power inherent in the constitutional office had been exercised or neglected by any of the earlier war Presidents, it was there already provided, sufficient for any emergency, adequate to any man's strength and responsibilities. The magnitude of the conflict impending when the Congress declared war on the German Government, and the utter unpreparedness of the country, for which his own previous attitude and policy were mainly accountable, insured him an initial burden comparable only to that which Abraham Lincoln sustained.

With war a fact, the further concentration and centralization of power in the President began. It began with the practical abdication of Congress, in successive enactments delegating broad new powers to the Executive. These laws, general if not vague in their phraseology, were passed by Congress at the invitation of the President, with a patriotic willingness to support him in his stupendous task, and at the same time with a cheerful self-abnegation to which it is impossible to find a parallel in the legislative history of any free people. What the President asked for Congress gave, more or less heedless both of the consequent restrictions of its own sphere of activity, its own constitutional share of government even in war time, and of the larger, and perhaps permanent, import of the wholesale transfer, only imperfectly apprehended by the public eye, that Wednesday night should be a solemn and grand occasion for the holding of the case. His Worship agreed.

He has taken on himself, through his Fuel Administrator, the enormous task of doing for the cook stoves and heating apparatuses and factory furnaces and lighting and power plants and locomotive and steamship boilers of the entire nation the same thing which he is attempting to do, through his Food Administrator, for the stomachs of our people. Not only the comfort, health and lives of the men, women and children of the country, but also the life of American industry.

The death process of concentration has gone on for three-quarters of a year at a rate of progress geometrical rather than arithmetical in its swift increment. "War measure" has been the sufficient credential of any proposal, no matter how revolutionary in principle or far reaching in the results entailed.

In addition to the new duties assumed with direct warrant from the Capital, Mr. Wilson, by warrant of his own conscience and individual sense of duty to the country and the world in the matter of moral leadership—and also with regard to the conduct of a war in which we are for the first time engaged in cooperation with foreign nations—has expanded his executive relation to European and world politics in a degree that would have been inconceivable, if not inconceivable, when he pronounced the dictum quoted near the beginning of these remarks.

Here, then, is a short catalogue of some of the major powers and responsibilities never exercised or borne by any of his predecessors, which Mr. Wilson as War President has taken on, or proposes to take upon his shoulders; with a courage which seems dauntless, a patience that seems inexhaustible, and an apparently boundless confidence in his ability to bear the load.

He has undertaken to be not only the executive administrator of the laws enacted by Congress with his approval but also the fountainhead of legislative policy, the dictator of his political party's creed without restraint by precedent or previous platform deliverances, the inspirer and leader of public opinion for the whole country.

Under the general war powers conferred by the National Security and Defence act of August 10, 1917, he has undertaken to supersede in his own person the Laisses Faire of the old political economy with regard to the production, manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and even consumption of the food supply of the nation of a hundred million people. The natural laws of supply and demand, operating through competition with enlightened selfishness, as the mainspring, have sufficed during six centuries up to so far as recorded human experience. In the days when it was the fashion to deride the idea of any arbitrary substitute for the established economic system, a favorite illustration was to picture the certain breakdown of Government paternalism in a Quixotic attempt to provide the single city of New York with the single article of milk for only one day. Yet that is what President Wilson, with calm confidence, is taking on himself to do for the entire food supply of the United States for an indefinite period. The catalogue of the articles specifically embraced in the vast undertaking is rapidly lengthening as a proclamation after proclamation appears adding to the list of foodstuffs and food producing and distributing business already regulated under the Government license system authorized by the act of August 10. During the week now ending the Food Administration, which constitutes one small segment of the new responsibilities concentrated in the President, has extended its control to the agriculture of the farms and market gardens and the fisheries of the salt ocean. The hay of the male's manager, the sardines or the dried beans of the cannery, the tomato of the catnap bottle, the bucky wheat of the morning flapjack, the peanut of the street corner vendor's stock are a few of the many things whereof the production and distribution now form part of the President's multifarious daily cares.

He has undertaken to regulate the production and distribution of foodstuffs not merely with reference to domestic consumption but beyond that to meet the food needs of foreign peoples, our allies in the war or the objects of our national sympathy as sufferers by the acts of the common enemy. It need not be said that this is an amplification of executive function which no other American President ever dreamed of as possible.

He has taken on himself, through his Fuel Administrator, the enormous task of doing for the cook stoves and heating apparatuses and factory furnaces and lighting and power plants and locomotive and steamship boilers of the entire nation the same thing which he is attempting to do, through his Food Administrator, for the stomachs of our people. Not only the comfort, health and lives of the men, women and children of the country, but also the life of American industry.

for its myriad tasks, it needs to depend directly upon the wisdom, foresight, technical knowledge and personal integrity of the agent he chooses. The President is responsible for it all. We are having at this very time an impressive illustration of the meaning of concentrated power—the process of death, which, as he has told us in such striking phrase, precedes the destruction of human initiative and human energy—when it is applied to brake the giant wheels of American industry. We are having an object lesson of unprecedented magnitude in the spectacle of a Congress appalled at the first phenomenal exercise of power so recently and so blithely granted, voting nearly three to one in the Senate that the hand of that power ought to be arrested. The President is responsible for it all and while our patriotic people are resolving to obey and suffer, mistake or no mistake at headquarters, the suspicion is becoming widespread among them that there might have been less suffering, less loss on the whole, if Laisses Faire and not Dr. Garfield had been on the job. Whether this impression is just or unjust to the Fuel Administration and to Mr. Wilson behind it, there has been no announcement yet from the Committee on Public Information that the President himself has wavered or staggered, or that a hair of his head or even an eyelash has whitened in consequence. The power is concentrated in him, both as to the American supply and as to that which can be spared for foreign needs. The next step with regard to fuel would make the President for the period of the war, the miser of coal both hard and soft, the pumper of oil from the subterranean reservoirs, the dispenser of natural gas, the chopper down of forests for firewood. These further functions are implied in the law which concentrates in him the power of control by Federal license, in order to exercise them he has but to proclaim his intention so to do.

To an extent which turns topsy-turvy all previous notions of the scope of executive power, President Wilson is becoming the nation's price fixer: price fixer for munitions and a multitude of the necessities of war; price fixer for fuel; rate fixer for transportation on land and water; rate fixer for dividends; price fixer even for the wretched pound of sugar which the housekeeper pursues with frenzy and finally obtains for less, perhaps, than it cost the small retailer who sells it when he can get it. The practical result of a further enlargement of this swiftly expanding executive responsibility can only be awaited with intense interest by the community.

Incidentally the President has taken on himself the regulation of the sumptuary affairs of his fellow citizens. Not directly, but indirectly through the exercise of the new powers concentrated in him and specified in the foregoing and following paragraphs, he has become the dictator of the people's pleasure, the censor of their luxuries, the overseer of their habits and manner of life. He can veto nocturnal amusements by ordering off the lights. He can curb excessive expenditure by ordering on the taxes. He can freeze the joy of a whole State by sending the coal to another part of the republic. He can regulate the menu of any banquet between Eastport and San Diego. He can enforce prohibition even where local opinion has said "No to alcohol. Not to dwell upon this by-product of concentrated power, the unlimited responsibility here indicated would be appalling to any Executive with less luminous ideas of right and wrong.

He has taken on himself, with the general acquiescence of the representatives of the properties concerned, the management of the entire transportation system of the United States and the responsibility for the just and efficient use of a power such as has been possessed by no other man since Stephenson's "Rocket" first lit the rails. Through the Director-General of Railroads, his own appointee responsible solely to him, he has undertaken to carry on for the public benefit and for war purposes a business, which in immensity and complexity and financial importance has no counterpart in the name of Government, that which has been done before this in detail by a body of the most highly specialized professional talent on earth. He can tend all these still to be organized and setting and yet his own men in charge. He can also the life of American industry.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S TASK.

(Continued from Page 4)

order any change in physical equipment. He can build up one system and relegate another to innocuous domestic use. He can alter schedules, lower or raise ticket money and freight tariff, make new combinations of service, put box cars where Pullmans have been running, depopulate suburban regions by his supreme authority over the timetable, shift real estate values by ordering freight this way and passenger traffic that way, take the flesh off the commuters' bones, take the dollars off the stockholders' bank account; all this and much more is within the power now concentrated in President Wilson. That he will exercise it to the best of his judgment and with a single view to war efficiency and the public interest who may doubt? The power and the burden are with him all the same. The President has already knocked railroad competition into the shape to which he once expressed a fervent desire to reduce Mr. Bryan. There can be no competition under this regime, except so far as it might be forced upon a recalcitrant or unfavourable line by thrusting that line beyond the pale of Government operation and thus leaving it in dismal independence with a single competitor, namely, the Government of the United States. Imagination can conceive no more searching test of the soundness of what Mr. Wilson said five years ago about the concentration of power as a death blow to human initiative and energy than the test he himself is now applying as the undisputed autocrat of the American railroads.

He has taken upon himself to do with and for American shipping just about the same thing as in the case of the railroads. He has also undertaken, under the compulsion of manifest necessity, to create a merchant marine with which to do that thing. He is already establishing in different quarters of the globe agencies to facilitate the operation, under Government control, of the new merchant marine now being or to be created under Government supervision. Thus the future of our flag on the seas rests with President Wilson.

He has undertaken with the cordial assistance of a Congress uncommonly ready for any patriotic sacrifice in the way of self-sacrifice, both to arrange the method and the impact of Federal taxation and to prescribe the extent and distribution of the expenditure to be voted. The memory of man does not run back to the time when the constitutional duties of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Finance Committee of the Senate and the various appropriation committees of both branches of Congress were so largely performed in the Treasury Department and in the White House. Five or six times the entire current cost of our Government during the four years of the civil war has been voted at the President's instance, almost without a question, in a single year for preparation for a foreign war yet to be fought. And the people—God bless them always—are buying the bonds and paying the taxes in order that the President may use effectively his concentrated powers.

He has taken upon himself, after conference with the Allies, to finance to a very considerable extent the military and naval operations of the Governments abroad with which we are acting in concert. And the American people, with confidence in his judgment in the exercise of this novel function of concentrated power, are buying the bonds and paying the taxes for this purpose also.

In order to keep the way clear for the Government's necessary borrowings from the people, the President is getting ready to undertake the regulation of the issue of new securities by every private concern in the market for money; to say what proposed loans to corporations shall be permitted and what investments prohibited for the general good. Thus the whole vascular system, arteries, veins, and capillaries, through which the flowing wealth of the nation circulates for the nourishment of ordinary American industry, large and little is to be controlled—if Congress says the word, as it has been saying the word again and again—by the same will and judgment in which so many other extraordinary powers are for the first time centralized.

The very day upon which the Congress awoke to a half-dared realization of what the powers it had already granted signified in the matter of coal alone, the President was reported as proposing to the Capital further war legislation, one of the specified new grants being "Government control of all necessities and their production and price." Not merely coal, not merely food, not merely the things entering directly into the manufacture of war material, but all the necessities of life for a hundred million Americans thus under the control of a single individual, born of woman, fallible as every human, limited in physical strength and mental capacity as every human being is limited. Absolute power of life or death, of partial paralysis or complete stoppage, over the production and price of "all necessities." That is what the President also proposes to take on himself. The most that can be said now with prudence is that the job it portends might well evoke a sigh of discouragement from Omnipotence and cause Omnipotence itself to draw a long breath.

In addition to all the enumerated undertakings and in addition to many more of almost equal or minor importance, Mr. Wilson, without a symptom of faltering in the gigantic task, has taken on himself the duty of formulating the ethical principles and political considerations that should determine the hereafter of the international structure, for the protection of weak peoples abroad, the insurance of relief to the oppressed of every continent, the safeguarding of democracy throughout the world. He is concerning himself with the geography of the Balkans, with the fate of the African colonies, with the righting of old wrongs effected by conquest, with the rectification of European frontiers and the reorganization of European nationalities on the basis of racial affinity and the justice of voluntary choice. And so general is the recognition of the vast new powers now concentrated in his representative office—that his words on these extra constitutional subjects command respectful attention wherever Civilization has ears to hear.

Such is the burden on one mortal's shoulders. We are not now examining the necessity of these successive steps in the concentration of power or criticising the President's way of employing the powers thus concentrated. We are not now attempting to measure them for any purpose except the exhibition in bulk of the tremendous total.

The list might be greatly extended. If we stop here, it is because we prefer to stop at Thirteen. If there is any ominous significance in that number, we are willing to let the whole scheme of fateful concentration, of socialistic transformation, of Federal government by commission, have the full benefit of the old superstition.

For assistance in the administration of Broddingnag the President has gathered about him a group of personally devoted or politically subservient men, some of ability, some conspicuous for incapacity to the verge of grotesqueness, but all dominated by his will and more or less merged in his individuality. Never for a moment can there be doubts as to the exact location of the centre of concentrated power.

At the climax of his career Napoleon Bonaparte did not exercise a more commanding influence on the lives and well being of the millions under his rule. He was an unblinking autocrat. President Wilson is a lifelong democrat who declared only five years ago that as a Democrat he resisted the concentration of power because he believed it to be a death process leading to the destruction of human initiative and human energy. He can be no socialist dreamer. Certain it is, however, that the death process, if continued into times of peace, means also the destruction of that Government of distributed and balanced powers which the founders of the republic contemplated and which they defined in the Constitution under which we exist as a nation.

Conscripted Irishman Released.

Thomas J. M., of Castlebar, who was arrested at Holyhead and tried twice by a military tribunal under the Defence of the Realm Act at Limerick last month, has been released from the direction of the authorities. Moran was conscripted, but refused to wear military uniform on the ground that he went to Holyhead in search of work and was not domiciled in England.

WAR SAVINGS.

Sixteenth List of the Local Association.

The following amounts totalling \$72,390—have been received by the Hongkong and South China War Savings Association for the past month from the members whose official numbers are given below, and invested in Straits Settlements War Loan at 6 per cent and in War Loans Investment Trust of Malaya at 6 per cent.

Application forms for membership may be had of all the Banks or from the undersigned.

Moneys in any currency, dividend warrants and bank notes are all accepted.

\$2,620—No. 754
\$3,000—No. 898, 35
\$2,000—No. 938
\$1,500—No. 896
\$1,200—No. 531
\$1,080—No. 96
\$1,030—No. 330
\$1,020—No. 645
\$1,000—No. 631, 604, 732

416 907 237, 44
\$900—No. 387, 754
\$820—No. 472
\$800—No. 479, 475
\$650—No. 318 903 919
\$600—No. 826, 739 120, 235
\$550—No. 44, 625, 64 427
410, 234, 459, 772, 1, 802, 814
145, 607, 325, 800, 453, 856, 853
\$450—No. 883, 22
\$400—No. 389 224, 584, 652
454, 234, 505
\$350—No. 552, 846, 549
\$330—No. 184
\$300—No. 775 553, 672
414, 397, 845, 093, 74 210, 396
420, 477, 811 910
\$250—No. 569, 470, 281, 725
793, 88 696, 137
\$240—No. 901
\$200—No. 879 411, 897, 722
713, 639 624, 19 830, 45, 221
280, 391 206 247 537, 874, 784
295, 680, 715, 772, 421, 567, 903

\$195—No. 899
\$180—No. 425
\$170—No. 273
\$165—No. 78
\$150—No. 731 809, 510, 737
799, 423, 641, 635 509, 873
\$145—No. 143, 124
\$140—No. 700
\$135—No. 671
\$130—No. 247, 216, 75
\$125—No. 801, 117, 204, 678
\$120—No. 419, 392, 215
\$115—No. 860
\$110—No. 472
\$105—No. 213
\$100—No. 453, 175, 833, 176
584 19, 350, 429, 64, 175, 176
902, 572, 636, 844, 165, 230
578, 889, 118, 122, 125, 31, 348
363, 580, 757, 252, 272, 350
185, 608, 764 710, 548, 42

\$90—No. 895
\$85—No. 671, 89
\$80—No. 834 410, 86 834
\$75—No. 535 551, 116, 276
\$65—No. 508
\$60—No. 77, 723, 268
\$50—No. 533 734, 232, 339
677, 14, 413, 875 108, 105, 12
881, 471, 79, 799 399, 734 803
860, 486, 600, 905 316 187 287
588, 681, 849, 738, 123, 825, 129
136, 137, 277, 278, 141, 146, 99
190, 212, 254 499, 734 882, 95
282, 336, 677 749, 750, 114, 248, 533

\$45—No. 170
\$40—No. 341, 269, 143
\$35—No. 800, 133, 142, 84
\$30—No. 236, 379 627, 893
110, 75, 310, 712, 124, 131, 298
255
\$25—No. 120 823, 887, 866
12, 773, 106 113, 71, 635, 62 635
303, 323, 675 130, 134, 138, 145
12, 878, 823, 424
\$20—No. 874 379, 76, 78
270, 705, 66, 305, 195, 231, 123
147, 566, 711
\$15—No. 339 114, 837, 704
593, 154 155, 132, 140
\$10—No. 70, 352 223, 243
501, 483 699 311, 889, 437, 121
474, 139, 70, 186, 193, 501
629, 751, 88, 299 864, 547, 331, 507

\$5—No. 83, 516 57, 161, 217
218 766, 733, 904 601, 485, 880
307, 595 584, 368 737, 880 161
162, 163, 164 687, 688, 689, 906
166, 167, 83, 5, 169, 516, 18
Total \$72,390

1st List ... 19,100
2nd List ... 10,298
3rd List ... 62,075
4th List ... 210,305
5th List ... 123,880
6th List ... 82,125
7th List ... 61,880
8th List ... 68,335

Previously acknowledged 125,424.55
Total \$135,029.64
(Straits Currency)

No. 267 ... 5 ... d.
277 ... 170 ...
276 ... 25 ...
873 ... 25 ...
855 ... 7 10 ...
859 ... 621 15 0 ...
891 ... 107 10 ...
894 ... 20 15 1 ...
911 ... 140 ...

Previously acknowledged 3,633 13
Total \$4,756 3 1
Nos. 765 483
858 260

Previously acknowledged 1,000
Total Pounds 1,685
Nos. 765 G\$ 25
858 25

Previously acknowledged 1,275.74
Total G\$ 1,325.74

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.
Hong Kong, 10th April 1918

Judge Skinner.
His Honour Judge and Mrs. Skinner have left Shanghai and will be absent probably for eight months.

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PORK

BEEF

&c.

LIVER SAUSAGES.

BOLOGNE, HEAD CHEESE.

BLACK PUDDING.

WHITE

&c.

9th List ... 110,595
10th List ... 140,345
11th List ... 49,715
12th List ... 49,625
13th List ... 80,875
14th List ... 43,680
15th List ... 84,355

Total amounts received to date \$1,289,261—

In addition to the above the following amounts have been received all of which have been invested in Straits Settlements War Loan at 6 per cent and in War Loans Investment Trust of Malaya at 6 per cent.

No. (Straits Currency)
3 \$137.50
7 150
18 25
20 150
44 42
49 150
80 30
203 300
206 60
238 90
272 20
290 180
309 140
310 48
317 150
379 10
410 20
457 355
580 289.10
640 10
679 210
728 5,000
807 600
810 60
819 300
822 10
835 20
852 340
871 360
892 43.75
894 328.74

Previously acknowledged 125,424.55
Total \$135,029.64
(Straits Currency)

No. 267 ... 5 ... d.
277 ... 170 ...
276 ... 25 ...
873 ... 25 ...
855 ... 7 10 ...
859 ... 621 15 0 ...
891 ... 107 10 ...
894 ... 20 15 1 ...
911 ... 140 ...

Previously acknowledged 3,633 13
Total \$4,756 3 1
Nos. 765 483
858 260

Previously acknowledged 1,000
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A 5061 IT HAPPENED IN NORLAND ... TWO-STEP
A 5927 VIRGINIA HOUSE WARMING ... TWO-STEP
A 5065 PALMETTO HOP ... ONE-STEP
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24 pils. 26.00

Claret Reserve 12 qts. 24.00

24 pils. 26.00

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